

## News in brief

### Simmons seeks recognition for fallen soldiers

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Rob Simmons, R-2nd District, is working to have deceased Vietnam War veterans whose name are not on the memorial in Washington recognized for their sacrifice.

Simmons was joined Thursday by Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald, D-Calif., in introducing the "Fairness to All Vietnam Veterans Act," which would help clear the way for the 74 men and women who died on board the USS Frank E. Evans on June 3, 1969, as well as many other forgotten Vietnam veterans who are not honored on the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C., to be honored.

The USS Evans first launched near the end of World War II and served duty during the Korean and Vietnam wars. After seeing combat off the coast of Vietnam, the Evans was sent to train in the South China Sea.

In the early morning hours of June 3, 1969, the crew awoke to the sounds of an Australian carrier tearing the vessel in half. The forward half, where all 74 deaths took place, sank in three minutes. Although the Evans was in the South China Sea, these sailors' names are not listed on the Vietnam Memorial wall because their vessel was determined to be outside a designated area.

The bill would call on the secretary of defense to find a more suitable way to recognize the sacrifices of all the men and women who died in combat in Vietnam but are not listed on the Memorial.